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A Rural Survey of Marin and Sonoma Counties California



MADE BY
COUNTRY CHURCH WORK
OF THE
BOARD of HOME MISSIONS of the PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH in the U. S. A.

WARREN H. WILSON, Superintendent
HERMANN N. MORSE, Investigator
156 Fifth Avenue, New York City

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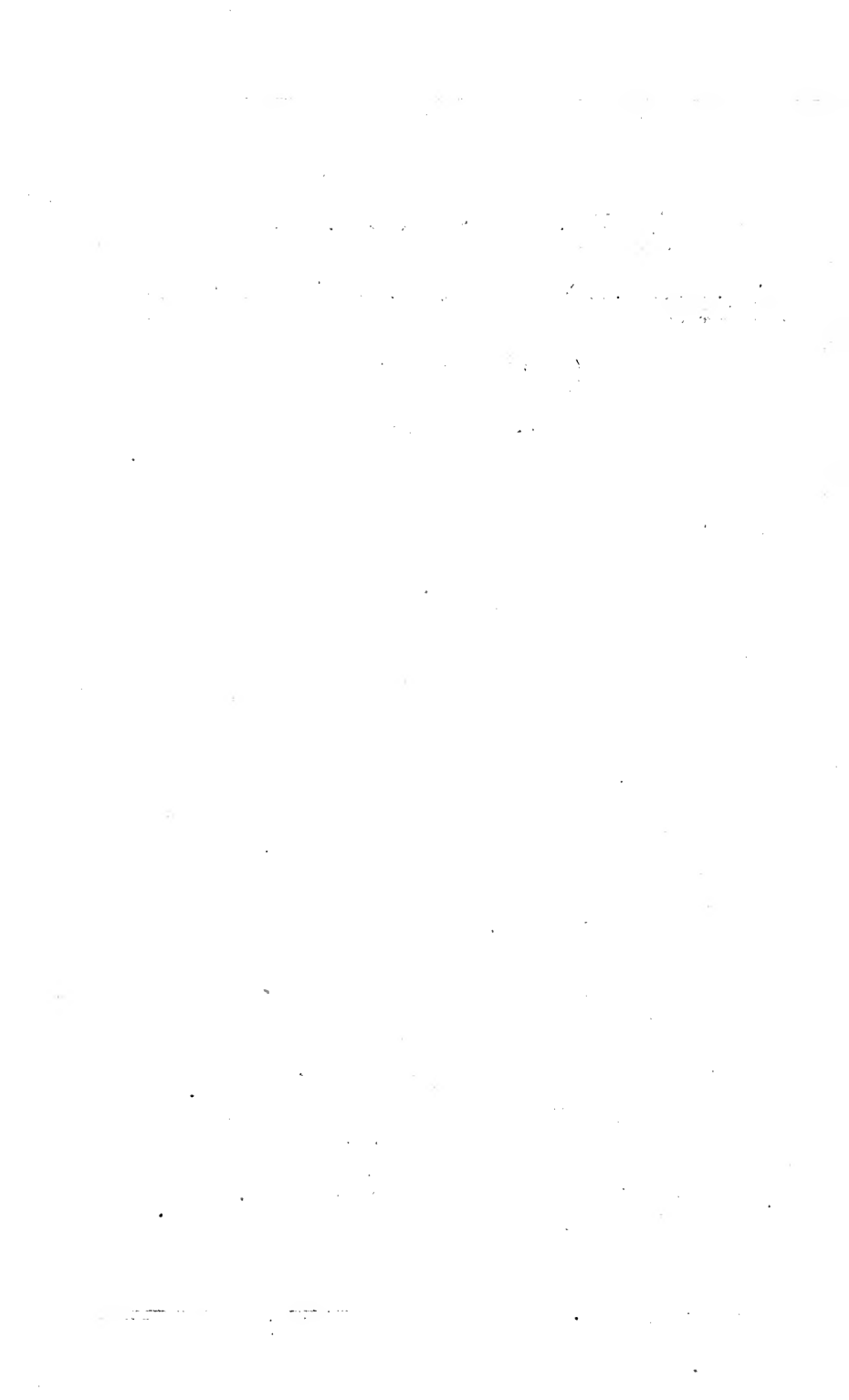
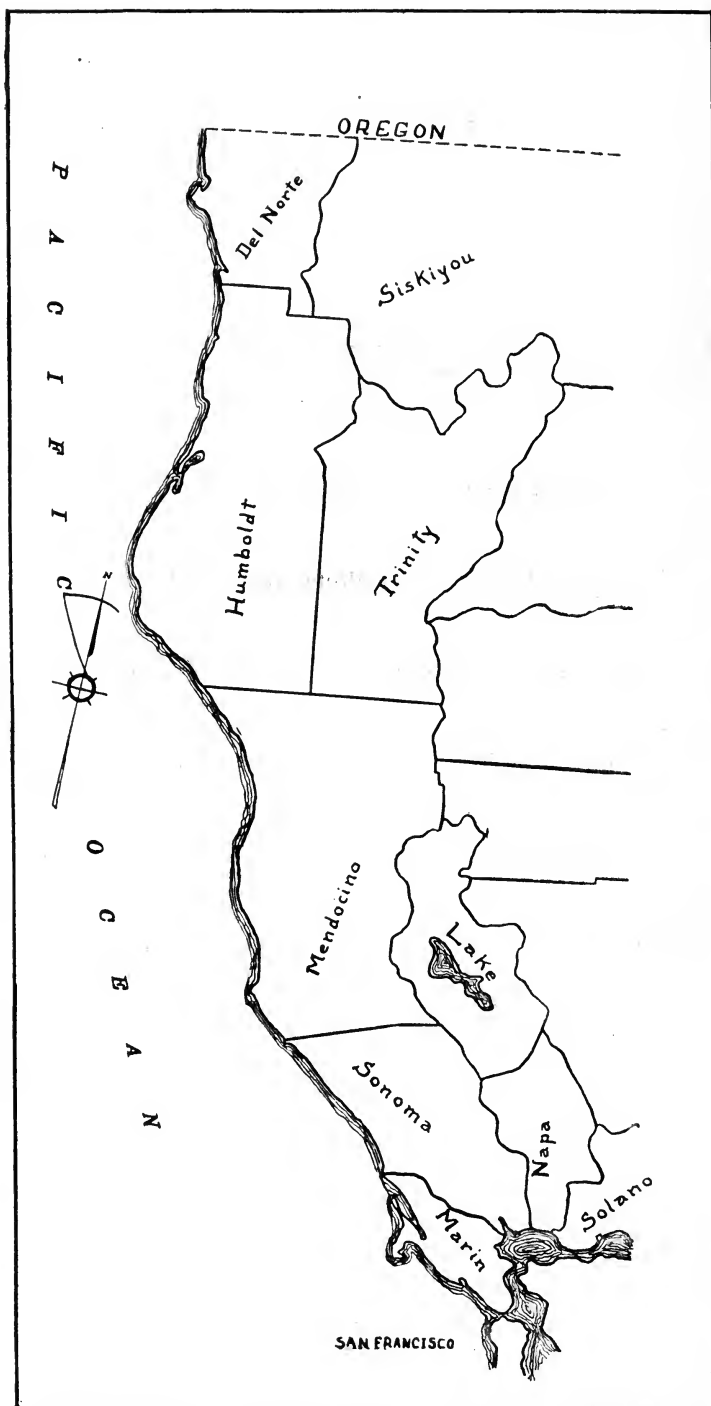


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OUTLINE MAP OF TERRITORY OF THE PRESBYTERY OF BENECIA.



CHAPTER I.

GENERAL VIEW OF THE RELIGIOUS SITUATION.

This survey was the second undertaken by the Country Church Work of the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions within the bounds of the Synod of California. The first is discussed in the Bulletin, "A Rural Survey of Tulare County, California." This survey of a portion of the territory of Benecia Presbytery was made on much the same lines. The brief discussion which follows should be considered in relation to the more extended treatment of Californian conditions in the earlier publication.

Marin and Sonoma Counties are the southernmost of the Coast Counties lying north of San Francisco Bay. The configuration of both is very uneven, a succession of mountain and hill ranges with intervening valleys of varying sizes. The commanding topographic feature of Marin County is Mount Tamalpais. The backbone of Sonoma County is a broad valley running almost due north and south through its entire length, a distance of sixty miles or more, with a varying width of up to twenty-five miles. Scattered through both counties are many creeks and rivers, the largest being the Russian River. There is much that is scenically attractive here, although nothing about the scenery is so remarkable as the utter complacency of the inhabitants with respect to it.

Since Drake first landed on the Marin Peninsula in 1579, six different flags have been raised over this territory, parts of it at least being successively claimed by England, Spain, Russia and Mexico, later being for a short time an independent republic and

finally a part of the United States of America. There are some interesting relics, particularly at Fort Ross, where the Russians built a fort and a church in 1811, and at Sonoma City, where can be seen the last of the great chain of missions, built in 1823, and the flagpole where several decades later Fremont first raised the Bear flag of the Republic of California. At San Rafael too was one of the last of the original missions, established in 1817, of which there are now no visible remains.

The Protestant Church faces a task of special difficulty. In addition to the usual problems incidental to religious work, there is here a group of vexing special problems arising out of the nature of the population dealt with and the general social and economic situation. First we may notice the problems of the suburban church. These are chiefly the problems of instability of population and division of interests. The suburban communities, particularly the newer ones, have a relatively insecure hold upon their residents. There is a good deal of shifting of residence and many who do not actually move have it constantly in mind that they may do so, which state of mind is reflected in their attitude toward local activities and institutions. The average suburban community is not characterized by the same degree of neighborliness which one would expect in a non-suburban community of equal size. The residents by reason of their intimate connections with the city have very much less in common locally, as regards business interests, personal associations and general social life. There are various interests working counter to the interests of the local churches. Many nominally church people have a measure of attachment to some city church and hesitate to align themselves with the local church. The Sunday amusement problem, very important in all parts of the State, is particularly so in certain of the suburban communities. Numbers of people live in such communities as Belvidere, Sausalito, Mill Valley, primarily in order that they may have an opportunity to enjoy certain of their favorite recreations on Sunday, as for instance, yachting, golf, tennis, tramping, etc. If it were not for these amusements, they probably would not be living in these communities. Every Sunday witnesses a great influx of visitors from the city, which has the effect of interfering with the church attendance of some who might otherwise attend and of providing a perfectly good excuse for many others. Then, of course, the tired business man is the regular week-end bugaboo of most urban and suburban communities.

Owing to the very meager support which religious work has



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SAN ANSELMO

received in these towns in the past and the many obstacles in the way, the methods of the Protestant church here have been chiefly characterized by a lack of those elements which alone would seem to give hope of success. Such are coherence and definiteness of organization, and continuity and definiteness of program, the lack of which makes the work rather aimless and haphazard. In these fields where, above all others, work along broad lines seems necessary, there is a very narrow conception of the function of the church in the community, and a woeful lack of any community effort or interest on the part of the church. In so shifting a population a persistent and wise evangelism would seem to be a necessary adjunct of organization, but it is almost totally absent from the work of these churches. One would infer that either our church organizations as a whole have had no plan or program for the suburban church, or that they have had no hope for its future.

All of these problems are thrown into clear relief by the work of one eminently successful church in this suburban territory, the First Presbyterian Church at San Anselmo. Hampered by an out of the way location, much too snugly under the wing of a theo-

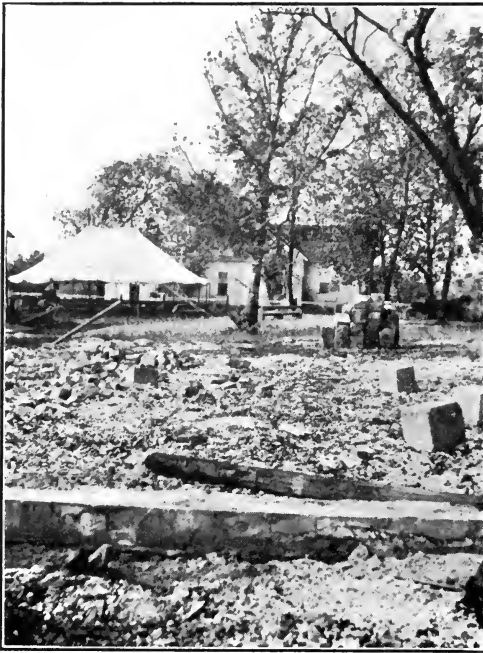
logical seminary, and equipped with a beautiful, but very inadequately arranged church plant, this church, after a considerable period of dignified somnolence, has in the last few years given a convincing demonstration of what can be done in a suburban community. The secret of it is no secret at all, but simply an adaptation of the usual methods of successful church work to the special situation outlined above. It stresses, first, organization. There is some definite working organization to fit every member in the church, and every church need. These include an efficient Sunday School, missionary societies and study classes, social, athletic, musical and other organizations. It has furthermore a well planned and executed financial program, which includes not only the local needs of the church, but various forms of community and denominational benevolences. The evangelistic note is definitely sounded, not only once a year, but as the keynote of the regular work. These things, in addition to the usual services and pastoral ministrations, unite to give the impression that this church is actually going somewhere, that it knows where that somewhere is and that it knows the way. In consequence the church is being built up in every department of its activities, is making itself a friendly and helpful church home for an increasing number of people and in many ways is definitely impressing itself upon the life of its community. It is also the radiating center of a helpful influence which extends to practically every community within reach. Outside of San Rafael it is the only Protestant church in the suburban district which has any considerable religious momentum.

There are very few churches in either county which do not have to face the problem of having in their communities a very considerable foreign population of non-Protestant stock. The foreign population whose traditions are Protestant have their own churches in those towns where their numbers are sufficient to warrant this; viz. San Rafael, Petaluma and Santa Rosa. Except in the case of the Irish, Scotch and English they do not very generally attach themselves to the American Protestant churches. Any special problem as far as the European Protestants are concerned, however, generally solves itself in the second generation.

The only definite Protestant religious work being done with non-Christian or Catholic foreign groups concerns the Orientals centered largely in Santa Rosa and San Rafael. But from every point of view the problem is more important in so far as it concerns the Italian, Swiss-Italian and Portugese groups, which are

nominally Catholic. A very considerable number of these have practically or entirely broken the hold which the Catholic church has had upon them, and although they could not by any stretch of the imagination be considered Protestant, they are Catholic only in the most formal and external fashion, if at all. Many have identified themselves with a form of socialistic propaganda which is definitely anti-Christian. Others with no noticeable antipathy to the church have merely divorced themselves from its influence. In so far as those of foreign birth remain good Catholics it is not desirable to attempt a Protestant work among them. But to have a very considerable element in the population, whether native or foreign, who have no church affiliations and who respond to no religious influences constitutes a very serious challenge to the Protestant church.

This aspect of the religious problem is important in every community and limits the possible growth of almost every church. In some communities the problem is more than important; it is absolutely vital. There are sections which had strong Protestant churches where these churches have been, or are being, practically frozen out. It is difficult to say just what attitude toward this problem should be urged upon the church. In the opinion of the survey the time is probably not yet ripe to undertake any definitely evangelistic work among these groups with much hope of immediate success. The schools and the other social institutions must do their work of Americanizing them much more thoroughly before the way will be opened for any aggressive evangelism. In a few instances where evangelistic efforts have been made the results have been exceedingly meager. But to neglect the problem altogether seems suicidal. It is possible for the church in conjunction with other community institutions to perform a very large function in the way of training them in American habits of thought and living. Anything that would enlarge the use of the English language in business, society and in the home, that would tend to level social and economic barriers, that would unite the foreign and native groups in various forms of recreational and community activities, or for the discussion of community problems, would seem to have a very real religious value. This is the type of preliminary work which might be done now to clear the way for a more definite evangelism later, since a lack of understanding and a lack of points of sympathetic contact seem to be the chief obstacles between the Protestant church and these elements of the population.



RUINS OF A CHURCH BELIEVED
TO HAVE BEEN BURNED AS
A RESULT OF THE PROHIBI-
TION CAMPAIGN, ITS MANSE
AND TEMPORARY SHELTER.

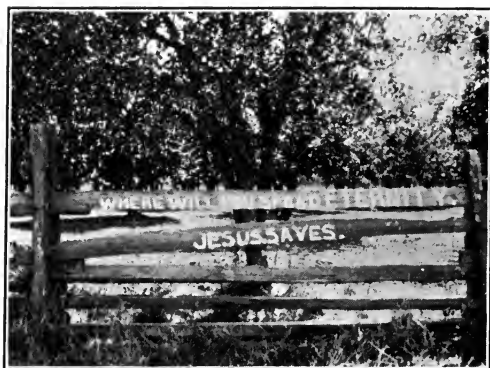
We are on very much the same ground when we say that in certain sections one of the chief religious problems is furnished by the nature of the industries practised there. We refer particularly to the wine grape and hop growing sections where the difficulty comes partly because these industries employ many foreigners and partly because certain moral questions have been raised in connection with the industries themselves. The very extensive prohibition agitation of recent years, much of which has been conducted along very narrow and unsympathetic lines, is largely responsible for the present situation. In communities which are largely supported by wine grapes and hops the efforts to destroy those industries have created antagonism, not only between the church and the people directly engaged in them, but to some extent also between the church and its entire community outside of the immediate church following. This antagonism has proven an almost insurmountable barrier to some churches. It is interesting to note in this connection that although we are generally told that the influence of those interested in the wine grape and hop industries is against the church, there is quite a widespread tendency in some quarters to criticize the church which accepts them into its fellowship. We do not, of course, question the soundness of

the prohibition cause, but merely call attention to the fact that the methods of its propagation have made a difficult problem for the church in the discharge of its primary functions.

The church is bound to have more or less difficulty in any relatively new and rapidly developing country simply from the shifts of population. The early establishment of churches involves more or less an element of guess work as to where the centers of population will ultimately be and as to the type of industry and the extent of resources which ultimately will be developed in any particular section. In addition to the churches which have been left stranded by the changes in the racial composition of the population about them there are quite a number of others which have been similarly affected by the shifts in numbers and in centers of interest. Since there is no longer very much question as to where the centers of population will be, we may suppose that the task of the future in this connection will be largely to keep abreast of the needs of a growing population in old or new communities, and to provide a measure of religious opportunity for the diminishing population of the few neighborhoods without much apparent future.

Any catalogue of the special problems of the church here would be incomplete without mention of the unfortunate fact that very few of the communities in these two counties have any marked religious traditions or conscious religious background, at least in the Protestant sense. That is why one sees so much in the general current of the community life that is opposed to or indifferent to the things that the Protestant church stands for. This has many regrettable results. A great many people who have had some religious affiliations in places of previous residence upon arrival here do not unite with the local churches. The churches in general seem to feel that the main currents of the community's life set away from them. Reacting against this they have become rather less sympathetic in their attitude, less benevolent in their point of view and less broad in their program of work than would seem desirable. It is a pity that so sharp a line has been drawn between the church and its interests and so many of the other interests of the community, even in some cases between the church and its natural ally, the school. In addition to the particularly successful suburban church which we have already discussed there are in other parts of this territory a number of eminently successful churches. Without exception these are characterized by completeness and adequacy of organization, by a persistent, rather than a sporadic,

evangelism, and by a many sided community interest and service. There are, of course, other churches whose work meets with a varying degree of success, but there is a good deal of work that is relatively futile. These ineffective churches are characterized by a weakness of organization, by a futile type of occasional evangelism, by a lack of community effort or of continuity in it, by a narrow point of view and a negative rather than a positive and constructive message for the people about them.



FENCE-RAIL PREACHING

CHAPTER II.

ORGANIZATION AND WORK OF THE PROTESTANT CHURCHES.

It is difficult to compute exactly the proportion of the population upon which the Protestant Church must depend for its recruits. As nearly as it can be estimated from various sources of information, outside of the cities of San Rafael and Santa Rosa, which will not be considered in the discussion of this chapter, the two counties contain an approximate Protestant population of 35,000. The Protestant work includes 73 organized churches or definitely established missions and preaching points, counting everything with any claim to be called alive, except the various organizations of the Church of Christ Scientist. There is also a certain amount of Protestant religious work carried on apart from church organizations, chiefly in the form of union Sunday Schools, in some cases accompanied by Christian Endeavor Societies or prayer meetings. Such Sunday School work is maintained regu-

larly in perhaps fifteen points in the two counties and not so regularly in a varying number of other points. Although San Rafael and Santa Rosa are not to be included in our discussion, we may note that San Rafael has five Protestant churches and Santa Rosa twenty-two. The Catholic Church has a very large following throughout both counties and practically every settled point is included in some established Catholic parish.

A great many denominations are represented but quite a number of them are confined to Santa Rosa, which specializes in religious variations. Elsewhere the established denominations include only thirteen generally classed as Protestant, the Seventh Day Adventists and the Roman Catholic. Compared with most rural sections this situation is simplicity itself. In Marin County the Protestant forces are divided chiefly between the Protestant Episcopal and Presbyterian denominations, while of all the larger Protestant bodies only the two named and the Methodist Episcopal and Congregational are represented. Sonoma County presents a more even division of strength among a number of denominations. Of the 73 churches which we are considering, 37 are found in suburban sections of Marin County and in the five larger towns of Sonoma County (Petaluma, Sebastopol, Healdsburg, Cloverdale and Sonoma City), 25 are located in the various small villages and 11 in the open country. The union Sunday Schools and other forms of unorganized work are in the country.

The organized religious history of this territory covers more than one hundred years. The first establishments were Greek Orthodox and Roman Catholic. The Protestant work began something more than sixty years ago at Sonoma City. The increase in the number of churches and in the general scope of the work has about kept pace with the increase of population, and although a certain number of churches have come and gone, the majority of those established are still being maintained. We had to record in Tulare County a great many churches of very tender years born to serve communities themselves newly born. The situation here is markedly different. Only eight new churches or missions have been established within the last five years and only seventeen all told within the last ten years. Fifty-six of the whole 73 now living, or partially living, are more than ten years old. Almost the same statement would describe the situation as regards the church edifices. There are 75 church buildings now in use for some form of religious service in addition to a number of totally abandoned

buildings. Only 24 buildings have been erected within the last ten years.

The church property in the two counties aggregates in value a little over half a million dollars. The range in value per church is from \$500 to \$50,000. It is with church buildings very much as with school buildings; a statement of age carries with it a pretty definite notion of adaptability for church purposes. The plan of almost all of the older churches is dictated by the idea of the church as primarily a place of preaching and very few have adequate equipment for religious education or for social functions. The tendency in the more recent building operations is to make more thorough provision for these aspects of the church's work.

A study of the numerical strength of the churches does not give very much cause for elation. The Federal Religious Census of 1906 reported a total Protestant membership for these two counties representing approximately 22% of the possible Protestant population. In 1915, nine years later, all the churches show a total paper membership of 5,119. Deducting from this the non-resident and definitely inactive members we note a total net membership of 4,672. This is a shade more than 13% of the possible Protestant population. The gains in local church membership for that nine year period have not kept pace with the gains in population, although the churches do show a very considerable net gain. This gain has been confined to about one-half of the churches, and has been partially offset by the substantial losses of certain others. A number of churches which were at work nine years ago have ended their work since that time. Of the 73 which we are considering, 24 must be classed as diminishing fields, part of which undoubtedly must be abandoned before long. Other fields just about manage to hold their own. They make some gain, sustain some loss, and end each year about where they began it. Then there are some which although they show an actual net gain in their membership are in reality growing in membership less rapidly than their communities are growing in population. It is, therefore, not surprising that the churches as a whole show a somewhat diminishing proportion of the total population in their membership. There are a few fields which until recently were in very poor condition which are now showing much promise.

If the year immediately preceding the survey may be taken as typical the conclusion is inevitable that it will be a long while before these counties are thoroughly evangelized by the Protestant Church. The gross gains of all churches during the year were 402,

while the losses for the year from death, removal and other causes were 185. This leaves a net gain of 217, which is a little less than 5% of the previous total net membership. Until these counties stop growing, an annual gain of 5% will not accomplish the task of winning them to the church. Sixteen of the 73 fields showed a net loss for the year. Several of these were fields which showed considerable gain, but a more considerable loss. Twenty-two fields just broke even on the year. Thirty-eight, therefore, or more than one-half, have nothing positive to show for the year's work. Eight fields made a gain amounting to less than 5% of their previous membership. Most of the gain of the year was confined to 27 churches, of which 15 showed a gain of from 5% to 10% of their previous membership and 12 a gain of more than 10%. Granting all the difficulties of many of the fields, this is not a very encouraging record. One of the reasons is the same old reason so often noted; the large church tends to grow at a much more rapid and uniform rate of progress than the small church. A small church even in a growing territory, unless it is watched over with care and pastored with faithfulness and ability, is not apt to grow with regularity. Although we have not in this territory as many denominations striving for place as we have frequently encountered, there are nevertheless many small competing churches with a meager following and an inadequate opportunity. Of course one understands that there are certain denominations which on principle are prepared to maintain a form of organization without the excuse of any considerable constituency. They are always ready to say, "Where two or three can be gathered together in our name, there will we be in the midst of you". That frame of mind seems to characterize many organizations. There are at least 26 churches of little strength competing for life with other churches with which they have no essential doctrinal differences. With no doctrinal sacrifice 12 churches could fill the places of these twenty-six. With very slight sacrifice sixteen of the 26 could be spared. Small competing churches are evangelistic failures. One large reason why the evangelistic record of the year is so poor is that we have 21 churches with less than 20 members each, 22 others with less than 50 members each, while only 13 of the entire 73 churches have over 100 members each. Of course there are some small churches in fields where there is no competition, but most of these small churches are in fields where the Protestant forces are divided.

It will be pointed out in a later chapter that rather a large portion of the total population are adult males, particularly in Marin

County where the women are greatly in the minority and where four out of every ten residents are males of voting age. The church does not always resemble its community and it certainly does not in this particular, since the female contingent in the membership is 61% of the total. There is a very fair proportion of young people in the churches, about 9% of the total membership being under twenty-one years of age. There are a number of churches which are doing splendid work with their young people. The average church parish is an area with a radius of about 3 to 3½ miles, though somewhat smaller than this in the suburban sections. The total average attendance per Sunday at all services is about 5,000, the morning services representing about 60% of that number. Services average small in most sections, particularly in the suburban towns. The total budget for the last church year was approximately \$75,000. 55% of this was expended for ministers' salaries, 33% for new buildings and for general contingent expenses, and the remaining 12% for various forms of benevolence. The proportion for benevolences is rather larger than usual for churches similarly situated. A number of churches have splendid records for missionary giving. The usual variations in financial methods will be found here. About one-third of the churches use the budget system, perhaps a fifth using duplex envelopes. In the main these are the churches which are in the best financial condition, although there are exceptions. One church, for example, does not use any form of weekly envelopes chiefly because its supporters make their pledges by the year and pay them in advance. There is, of course, with most of the churches a lack of system and thoroughness especially evident in the raising of benevolent contributions. It is interesting to note in this connection that the churches which made the best showing in the matter of benevolent contributions are also the churches which are the best organized for missionary study and work.

The 73 churches have in connection with their work 70 Sunday Schools. These Sunday Schools have a total average attendance of 3,180, or about 45 per school. Twenty-eight of the schools have an average regular attendance of 25 or less, 24 have an attendance of from 26 to 50, while 18 have an attendance of better than fifty. These figures are important because they indicate in general the character of the work done. A small Sunday School may be a very efficient Sunday School, but its lack of members is a handicap in many branches of work. Very few of the schools which have an average attendance of less than 50 are at all carefully graded.



TWO ROCK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Seventeen of the 70 Sunday Schools have organized classes, several being very thoroughly organized. Twenty-five Sunday Schools use graded lesson systems in whole or in part. Twenty-six have Cradle Rolls, 19 have Home Departments and 12 provide some form of Teacher Training. An interesting feature of Sunday School work in Marin County is the County Sunday School Athletic League, which holds an annual summer camp near Muir Woods and also holds an Interschool Bible Contest in which seven schools took part last year. The Union Sunday Schools not attached to any church organization have in the main about the same characteristics.

The other forms of church organizations represented include Young People's Societies, senior, intermediate and junior, Ladies' Aid Societies, Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Societies, Brotherhoods, athletic, social, financial, missionary and other organizations. Not quite one-half of the churches have Young People's Societies. Some of the other churches can find no young people, while others can find them but cannot reach them. Fifty-five of the churches have Ladies' Aid Societies, the only remarkable

thing about that figure being the fact that there are 18 churches which manage to exist without them. Twenty-three churches have Women's Missionary Societies. Four churches have Men's Brotherhoods. Eleven of the 73 churches have no form of organization at all except Sunday Schools. In the main one may say that the churches are very weak on the side of organization, although the really successful churches are all characterized by strength in this particular.

At the time of this survey 50 ministers were regularly at work among the churches, while a certain number of others were occasionally available for supply. The students from the Theological Seminaries at San Anselmo and Berkeley do more or less supply work. Of the 50 ministers definitely attached to fields in these counties 44 gave their whole time to the ministry, while 6 combined the ministry with some other form of employment. A little more than one-half of the churches are separate charges. Nineteen are regularly on circuits of two or three churches. Nine churches were vacant at the time of the survey and 7 depended on irregular supply. One of the very great weaknesses of the work here is a lack of continuity in the ministry. Shifts in pastorate in some communities are almost equivalent to a procession. Nineteen of the 44 full time ministers were at the time of the survey serving their first year on their field, 7 were serving their second year, 16 the third to the fifth year and two had been serving for six years or more. From various sources we learn of a considerable number of changes since the field work was completed. The salaries of the ministers do not average high but are better than in some sections. Of these 44 ministers only 7 receive less than \$500 a year, 8 others receive less than \$750, 15 receive from \$751 to \$1,000 a year, while 14 receive \$1,000 or more; 37 of the 44 have parsonages furnished them.

The main phases of the religious situation, both from the point of view of the present organization and work of the churches and from their performances in the past, seem to be four. *First*, the religious problem varies greatly both in form and points of emphasis according to the variations in the kind of population dealt with, the changes in the numbers of the population and the kind of industries by which the population is supported. Social and economic conditions always give color to the religious problems, but here the dependence of the church upon these considerations seems more complete than usual, yet the church is not dealing adequately with any of the questions raised by these conditions. The *second*

feature is the relative failure of the country churches. Quite a number of churches which have been established in the country have entirely disappeared, while with some few exceptions those remaining have declined in strength and influence. The religious life of these communities has come to be centered very largely in the towns and villages. This lays upon the village churches the necessity of winning not only their village communities, but also the contingent country territory for the Kingdom. In this most of the village churches have conspicuously failed. They are not reaching the rural territory surrounding them in anything like the degree necessary for adequate results. In the *third* place the years have brought with them not a more substantial Christian unity, but rather an increasing division of the religious forces, the legacy from which is the large number of weak, inadequately supported and ineffective churches. *Finally*, one cannot help but be concerned with the failure of the Protestant Church after sixty years of work to really impress its claims upon the life of the communities, as measured by the communities' support of the church as an institution and by the feeling and attitude of the communities toward matters religious.

CHAPTER III.

PRESBYTERIAN FIELDS IN MARIN, SONOMA AND LAKE COUNTIES.

After the field work in Marin and Sonoma Counties was completed a very hasty and cursory investigation was made of religious conditions in the five principal towns of Lake County, in which the Presbyterian Church now has, or in the past has had, work. This present chapter merely records the impression of the survey as to the present status and future promise of the various Presbyterian fields in these three counties.

Sausalito.

This is a meager field, the majority of the population being Roman Catholic and the majority of the remainder belonging to other Protestant faiths. There are probably several hundred people in the community who are not definitely attached to any local church other than the Presbyterian, but this number includes many who would not be considered promising material. The work is in good condition. The field cannot be said to have much immediate promise.

Belvidere.

There is an excellent Presbyterian Church plant here, but no following. Yachting, The Christian Science Church and the Protestant Episcopal Church are the three preferred faiths of the population, in the order named. There is no outlook for the Presbyterian work.

Corte Madera.

This field has just been united with Novato under a pastor and one student assistant. Larkspur just north of Corte Madera has a defunct Presbyterian church. Corte Madera and Larkspur should be logically one parish, although between them is a great gulf fixed. Many mistakes characterize the history of the Presbyterian work here. The two church buildings are undesirably located, the field has become very much divided and it has suffered from years of ineffective ministry. The surface of this field has hardly been scratched. Although there are many local difficulties to be overcome, it should be regarded as an exceedingly promising field.

Novato.

This field should profit by the grouping arrangement with Corte Madera as a temporary measure, because while conserving Home Mission funds this will give to Novato for the time being much better pastoral service. Like Corte Madera, Novato has been the victim of a constant shifting and an almost unvarying inefficiency in its ministry. The numbers of Protestant people in the vicinity of this village are increasing and this is the one rural field in Marin County which has considerable promise.

San Anselmo, First.

This church, which was mentioned earlier in the report, has a very ample field which is now being adequately worked for the first time.

San Anselmo, Second.

In the vicinity of this church is a large and increasing Protestant population amongst whom aggressive religious work has been done for only a very short period. The field is one of great promise.

Tomales.

The Tomales Church represents a little group of Protestants entirely surrounded by foreigners. It is a restricted field in which very excellent work is being done. There are many difficult problems in connection with the work here and the outlook is not very bright, but this field has the opportunity of testing out the possi-



THIS CHURCH FEDERATED WITH THE BAPTIST CHURCH OF THE TOWN.

bility of maintaining a Protestant church in the midst of a nominally Catholic foreign population.

There is a church at Bolinas which was for a time served by student supply, but which for two years now has been served only in the summer by ministers on their vacations. Some distance north of it near the end of Tomales Bay is Point Reyes Station where the Presbyterians began service a year ago with a student supply. A few miles south of Point Reyes at Olema is an almost defunct Methodist Episcopal Church. These three points are grouped here because throughout this whole Coast section the Protestant population is very scattered and small in numbers. The only opportunity to maintain a Protestant work at all aggressive in quality would seem to be by making the whole territory the exclusive parish of one organization.

Two Rock.

This is a country church with a definite, but restricted field. Work along very broad lines is necessary on account of the makeup of the population. The church is being and has been very well cared for and within the limit set by the numbers of its possible following has a certain amount of promise.

Camp Meeker.

This community is chiefly important as a family summer re-

sort. As a field for all year work it is very limited and is not of very great importance. The all-year population on which the church depends consists chiefly of middle-aged and elderly people who have retired from active work.

Petaluma.

Petaluma is over-churched and very strongly Catholic. The Presbyterian church has a very limited field. The various Protestant churches have to exercise considerable care to make any progress without stepping on each others' toes.

Fulton.

This church has a rich farming district for its parish. The work has been in the past quite neglected, but is in much better shape now. It is a promising field.

Healdsburg.

Healdsburg like Petaluma has too many churches. The Presbyterian church has made little progress during its history. The work is in better condition now than ever before. The prospects are rather limited.

LAKE COUNTY.

Lake County is an isolated county without railroad connections and separated from the rest of the world by formidable elevations. It is chiefly noticeable for its Bartlett pears, its medicinal springs and the thousands who come to them every year for a mineral water debauch, for its beautiful lakes and for its unbounded optimism. Lake County has been expecting a railroad to be built at once for many years. The future seems exceedingly uncertain. If it can provide itself with more adequate transportation facilities it should develop somewhat, for the land is of fair quality, and well adapted to certain agricultural pursuits and the county has already proven attractive to tens of thousands of tourists annually. The five towns mentioned below are the only considerable settlements at present.

Lakeport.

This town on Clear Lake is the county seat. Financial conditions here reflect the uncertainty as to the county's future. On the basis of its present population and resources the town is very seriously over-churched. Religious work is purely a competitive proposition. Good work is being done in the Presbyterian as well as in certain of the other churches, but some combination of the present religious forces would seem to be highly desirable if the

churches are to increase to any marked degree in efficiency. As the situation now is the field has very little promise.

Kelseyville.

This town, which is the center of the best agricultural district of the county, in some respects seems its most promising field. Here too the religious forces are divided beyond the point of efficiency and the immediate outlook is not very bright.

Upper Lake.

This is a limited field in which the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, maintains a resident pastor. The Presbyterian church is not needed and should not be maintained.

Lower Lake.

No religious work of any special significance has been done in this town for sometime. What little is done, however, is due to the Methodist Episcopal Church in conjunction with their field in Kelseyville. The Presbyterian church here has an exceedingly meager following and there would seem to be no justification for attempting to revive the work.

Middletown.

This community was supported by several mines which were quiescent at the time of the survey. It has some farming possibilities if it can be awakened sufficiently to discern them. The Presbyterian church, which was in very fair condition, was federated with the Baptist church several months before the time of the survey. This experiment has not yet had time for a thorough testing, but the prospects for successful work seem bright. For the present at least, this arrangement should not be disturbed.

The findings in this survey as set forth in this and the preceding chapters justify the following recommendations:

1. We recommend that the Presbytery of Benicia undertake to promote the work of the Corte Madera, San Anselmo Second and Novato Churches. These promising churches should be put in a special class for a period of not less than five years, with a view to their advancement into maturity as well-organized congregations. A minister suited to the work should in each case be adequately maintained without change during the period mentioned.

2. The greatest need is the adaptation of religious work to the three types of people—the suburban, the industrial and the foreign-speaking. In all this section the work is conventional and traditional; but for these three populations there are needed types of

service differing widely. The mere maintenance of preaching services and the following of a traditional plan of pastoral service will not meet the situation. The church must adapt itself to the needs of the community, and in a region in which the work is so strongly characterized as this there should be no hesitation in adopting programs of action which will make the churches of use to the people about them.

3. We recommend that the presbytery concern itself with the problem of religious service to the people in the industries of this region; in particular, the problem of serving the people engaged in the cultivation of grapes, hops and in their conversion into the alcoholic liquors should be studied and a definite attitude by the Church should be taken with deliberation. It is not enough for the Church to take the attitude of opposition. There should be foresight as to the future. Merely to forbid is only to offend. The Church should teach something constructive, and a program of adaptation of the work of the church to people whose industrial character is marked should be mapped out. The short pastorates and the use of students in so many churches result from the lack



IN LAKE COUNTY.

of purpose in the churches. As soon as the churches make up their mind to accomplish a definite thing they will lengthen the pastorates and will engage the hearty consecration of ministers who will give their life to the work of the ministry.

4. We recommend that the village churches recognize that their work should be the whole rural community. This means that the village church needs to be the center of evangelistic and industrial service. The gospel must be preached to the people working in the open country in the industries that characterize this region. Few open country churches show signs of strength or survival. The village church seems to have the future and it cannot do its duty when its mind is concerned only with the religious service that is found in the village streets. The work of Dr. Silas E. Persons, of Cazenovia, New York, described in his "The Village Church and The Open Country", and the work of Dr. Harlow S. Mills, of Benzonia, Michigan, related in his book "The Making of a Country Parish", should be an example to the village churches on whom the burden of the rural problem falls in these counties.

5. We commend the evangelistic opportunity in the suburban region to the attention of churches there as their chiefest duty. Deliberate organization of the church on the basis of continuing evangelistic appeal is the only proper solution of the problem of the suburban church. Evangelism should be the very alphabet of their lesson. It should be the breath of life to them.

6. Comity and exchange of churches with other denominations is not so important in this region as in some sections. It is true that some Presbyterian points should be given up, at least some preaching stations which have the name to exist but in which religious service has been temporarily laid down should not be resumed. As soon as possible these places should be discontinued; but in comparison to the duty of comity among the responsible denominations, the great need in this region is the need of extension and evangelization. Nevertheless the attention of the churches should be directed toward the number of small, irresponsible and unnecessary religious groups. This is the bane of religious life in California. There is some cause underlying it which does not appear in the evidence. We believe that it is the lack of community service and of cordial gospel spirit in the churches themselves. The responsible congregations representing the larger national denominations have the prestige and they should have a spirit which would make it unnecessary for the people to go off into small and seceding religious groups. It remains for the congregations of the Presby-

terian, Methodist, Baptist, Congregational and similar communions to minister to the whole community by a teaching of the Scripture, and a cordial, devoted organization and social life, and by such ministry to the whole community as will satisfy the religious needs of each neighborhood in which the church is placed. When this is done there will be united religious life.

The general work of superintendence done for Benecia Presbytery by the Home Missions Committee and by Rev. Edward K. Strong, D. D., superintendent, is heartily commended. This survey does not show adequately the extent of the task of the Presbytery, whose boundaries reach northward to Oregon and eastward to the top of the Coast Range. In recommending intensive work for a limited area we are not forgetful that the first task of the Presbytery is extension and the evangelization of this vast region.

CHAPTER IV.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM.

The report on Tulare County, California, contained a rather detailed discussion of the public school system, which precludes the necessity of extensive treatment of this subject here. The California school system is so organized that very little is left to local initiative except physical equipment and one does not find such marked variations in school efficiency as might be expected from the variations in economic and social conditions. The reader uninformed regarding this system is referred to the previous bulletin. There is this marked difference between the two sections. Marin and Sonoma Counties are an older settled region than most of the San Joaquin Valley and are in many respects not so progressive. There is not in many sections of these counties the same forward look in the matter of school equipment that so characterized the rural sections of Tulare County.

The two counties have in all 189 grammar schools, which were in session during the school year 1914-15. The one-teacher schools greatly predominate, being 75% of the whole number. There are only fourteen schools in the whole territory with four teachers or more each. The teaching force includes 34 men and 355 women. The average remuneration of the teachers is high, both in the towns and in the open country. The men receive an average salary of \$1,114, annually, and the women an average salary of \$799. A very large proportion of the teachers have had normal training.



SOME SONOMA COUNTY SCHOOLS.

The situation here with regard to the size of schools is the same as throughout the State. The movement for the centralization or consolidation of grammar schools has hardly begun. It is a commonplace that the very small school is not apt to be as efficient a working unit as the larger school. There are more schools in some sections than are really needed and many of them are maintained with very few pupils, although there are of course some communities so situated that a small school is inevitable and no combination with other districts is possible. Practically 50% of the 189 schools showed an average daily attendance of less than twenty pupils each, while one in every four had an average attendance of less than ten. Only 30% of the schools had more than thirty pupils each in attendance. The total enrollment for the schools was 12,161, of whom 53% were boys and 47% girls. The aggregate average daily attendance was 9,685, or 79% of the enrollment. The enrollment both of boys and girls held up fairly well throughout the eight grades, 42% of the total number enrolled being in the fifth to eighth grades, inclusive.

Nearly three-fourths of the whole number of schools were in session, annually, more than 170 days. The method of organization raises the same problem of supervision here that was noted in Tulare County. The duties of the County Superintendents are so many and so varied that careful supervision of the work of such a large number of schools is impossible. There is, of course, more adequate supervision in the larger towns, but 70% of all the schools are visited by the Superintendent not to exceed three times in a year, while a very large proportion are visited only once. This, of course, is not supervision at all, but only inspection. The schools, as elsewhere in the State, are very well provided with school libraries, the total being 203,434 volumes, an average of over 1,000 volumes per school. Very few schools, and those mostly in districts recently created, have less than 750 volumes, each. The total cost of maintaining the grammar schools for the year 1914-15 was \$427,685.83. Teachers salaries consumed about 77% of this total. This makes an average annual cost per pupil enrolled, including all expenditures except for buildings, of \$36 in Marin County and \$34.13 in Sonoma County. The schools have property of all kinds to the value of \$950,910, the buildings, grounds and furniture representing about 90% of this total. There are many meagerly equipped schools. One in every three holds property valued at less than \$1,000, while nearly one-half of the whole number hold property valued at from \$1,000 to \$3,000. The value

of the building does not necessarily measure its adequacy for school purposes, but in this case the figures just given do provide such a measure. Thirty-eight districts have some outstanding bonded indebtedness totaling \$324,213.

There are nine public high schools, three in Marin and six in Sonoma County. These are located at San Rafael, at Mill Valley (Tamalpais Union), Tomales (Union), Sebastopol (Analy Union), Cloverdale (Union), Healdsburg, Petaluma, Santa Rosa and Sonoma (Union). These high schools had in 1914-15 a total enrollment of 1,605, of whom 681 were boys, 924 girls. The total average daily attendance was 1,329. Although eight of the nine high schools offer a four year course, the enrollment by grades shows the usual dropping out of pupils year by year. The enrollment for the first, second, third and fourth years of work, respectively, was 619, 462, 273, 246. In all 76 teachers are employed, 24 of whom are men. The average salaries paid are \$1,657 for the men, and \$1,097 for the women.

The total expense for the year was a little over \$164,000, which sum included several items for buildings aggregating about \$30,000. The average cost per pupil enrolled, exclusive of the cost of new buildings, was in Marin County \$85.66 and in Sonoma County, \$104.92. The nine districts have property to the value of about a third of a million dollars, five of the nine districts having outstanding bonds representing about 80% of that amount.

In addition to these public schools, both grammar and high, there are quite a number of parochial and private schools, academies and convents, which furnish educational advantages to a large number of children, and in several instances draw pupils from outside the limits of the counties under consideration. The principal schools of this type are in Sausalito, San Rafael, Petaluma and Santa Rosa.

It cannot be said that any marked effort has been made to adapt either the elementary or secondary schools to the needs of their respective communities. Neither the formal course of study, nor the general community activities of the schools show a tendency in this direction, although in some isolated instances an effort at such readjustment has been made. Especially in Sonoma County, where the interests are so largely agricultural, one would be justified in expecting some more definite effort to link up the school system with the very obvious and important community problem. The racial composition of the population would seem to make some such effort all the more desirable. In conclusion it may be men-

tioned that there is a very strong feeling in a few districts that the influence of the schools there is not morally or socially all that could be desired. There are many other interesting angles to the school situation, but space does not warrant their consideration here.

CHAPTER V.

SOCIAL RESOURCES AND CHARACTERISTICS.

The combined population of the two counties is approximately 80,000. In 1850 their combined population was a little less than 1,000. The growth since that time has been steady and in the main normal though not uniform throughout. From 1890 to 1900 Sonoma County showed an increase of 17.6% and in the following decade an increase of 25.8%. Marin County showed an increase of 20.1% and 59.9% for the same two decades. Following the great earthquake of 1906 Marin County's population increased very rapidly, owing to a very considerable exodus from the city to the suburbs. No such rate of increase is to be expected in the future. The suburban section of Marin County probably aggregate a population of from 18,000 to 20,000. The six largest towns of Sonoma County have in the aggregate within their corporation limits about 27,000. This leaves a total of from 30,000 to 35,000 for the smaller towns and rural sections, perhaps 10,000 of these living in close proximity to the larger towns.

The population is very heterogeneous and is composite of many racial strains. In Marin County the native Whites of native parentage and the native Whites of foreign or mixed parentage contribute each a little more than a third of the total population. The foreign born Whites contribute a little less than a third, a small residuum being Negroes, Chinese, Japanese, etc. Between 1900 and 1910 there was a very marked increase in the proportion of native Whites of native parentage, due to the very large increase in the suburban and commuting population. In the normal year to year growth at the present time those of foreign birth or parentage considerably outnumber the native stock. In Sonoma County conditions are somewhat different. Here the native Whites of native parentage constitute nearly one-half of the total population, but the proportion is decreasing. Native Whites of foreign or mixed parentage make about 29% of the total and the foreign born about 22%. In this county also there is a small group of Negroes and Orientals.

It is of course a matter of common knowledge that the newer immigration differs very markedly from the older immigration. In Marin County of the direct importation from the Old Country by far the largest element are Italians, Swiss-Italians and Portugese. The latter two furnish the dairymen of the county; the former most of the day laborers. Next in numerical importance are the Canadians and then the Germans, but these two groups live chiefly in the suburban towns. Of those who are now a generation away from their European homes the Irish come first in point of numbers; the Germans second; the Italians third; the Swiss-Italians fourth and the Portugese are a negligible number, indicating amongst other things that the immigration of these last three groups is of fairly recent occurrence. These are the groups which are now increasing most rapidly in this territory. Somewhat the same conditions maintain in Sonoma County. Of the foreign born Whites by far the largest group are Italians and Swiss-Italians, who are found chiefly in the wine growing districts. The second largest group is the Germans. Of the older immigration the Germans are most numerous, the Italians second, the Irish third and the Swiss-Italians fourth. There is an extensive German and Scandinavian Colony in the vicinity of Petaluma and a somewhat smaller number in the vicinity of Santa Rosa.

Another interesting side light on the character of the immigration is furnished by the fact that in the Marin County population the males outnumber the females almost two to one, due chiefly to the large number of single men in certain of the foreign groups. Over 40% of the total population are males of voting age. In Sonoma County this condition is not nearly so marked, the sexes being more evenly balanced in numbers and only a little over one-third of the total population being males of voting age. In Marin County about one-half of the adult foreign born males and in Sonoma County considerably over one-half are naturalized.

In both counties the foreign elements, particularly the more recent immigration, are being assimilated very slowly. Their means of livelihood and their methods of living result in what is practically segregation for many of these foreign groups. As a result some of the smaller towns are not very markedly American in characteristics. Adult education is here a serious problem with which practically nothing is being done in any definite and concerted manner. It is therefore quite natural to find a rather high percentage of illiteracy. Of all those of foreign birth ten years of age and over about one in eight for Marin County and about

one in eleven for Sonoma County are illiterate. There is none of these foreign groups but has contributed its quota of educated and substantial citizens. The chief difficulty comes with those groups for whom neither home nor general social conditions provide the necessary socializing and assimilating influences. A careful study of one such community where the foreign element is very largely in the majority indicates a very high degree of thrift and industry, but a very low degree of general intelligence and education, a great lack of literary and cultural opportunities in the homes and the community, a dominant part played socially by foreign lodges and by the saloons, and a general sentiment opposed to secondary and higher education and to other influences which would probably result in the more thorough Americanization of the community.

It is difficult to treat the question of social characteristics at all adequately here because of the many local variations to be noted. Economically, socially, religiously the suburban community is *sui generis*; it is neither flesh, fish nor fowl. It has some of the characteristics of the city upon which it depends, some of the characteristics of the small village which it outwardly resembles, but lacks the coherence and familiar relationships of the village and the size and momentum of the city. This makes it very difficult to evaluate a suburban community either socially or religiously. Socially the suburbs appear to depend very greatly upon the city, although there is a good deal of give and take in this regard. But the city is very near at hand and the suburbanite by definition must have at least part of his interests there. San Rafael is perhaps something of an exception. It seems to have had for a long time a more definite community consciousness than the other suburban towns and its existence as a community of considerable importance antedates by many years the recent suburban development. Elsewhere through this section there is an emerging social consciousness and local social life which seem to center in large part about the institutions. This is more marked in some sections than in others. The year of the survey could hardly be taken as a typical year to judge of this, because of the Panama Pacific International Exposition so near at hand.

The social life of the foreign element, particularly in communities where they predominate, very largely centers about their lodges. Throughout both counties lodges of all kinds are very numerous, there being literally hundreds of locals. They exercise considerable social importance, more, seemingly, than is usually

characteristic of the lodge in country districts or small towns. The grange is very strong in some sections of Sonoma County.

A difficult angle of this problem is furnished by the many resorts and road houses and by the liquor traffic in general. These create in some sections a very serious moral problem, although to a considerable extent it is an imported problem.

Throughout California it is frequently observed that the older elements in the population are less progressive and less socially minded than the newer element, not considering the foreign population in this connection. It is not easy to say just why this is so or just what is the extent of its influence, but the impression seems well grounded that the Native Son influence is in general against social and religious progress.

The communities farthest from the city and most nearly free from its influence have a more developed local social life. This can be seen very clearly in Sonoma County. One indication is the considerable social importance of the various annual festivals held in the different towns. The most important of these are the Cloverdale Citrus Fair, the Petaluma Pure Food Show, the Santa



THE BAY FROM SAUSALITO.

Rosa Rose Carnival, the Sebastopol Gravenstein Apple Show, the Healdsburg and Monte Rio Water Carnivals and the Petaluma Poultry Show. Both counties contain many interesting organizations of various kinds other than secret orders. There are also various charitable and similar institutions which are interesting but of slight local significance.

CHAPTER VI.

ECONOMIC RESOURCES.

By no means all parts of these two counties are important for their agricultural interests. We may recognize four main and two minor economic differentiations. The thickly settled portions of Marin County lying east and northeast of Mount Tamalpais and its adjacent hills for a distance of twenty miles or more from Sausalito, the ferry landing from San Francisco, are important chiefly as being one of the main suburban sections tributary to San Francisco. Most of this territory is probably destined to be an almost unbroken succession of suburban homes. The productive industries here are of slight importance. A relatively small portion of Marin County, chiefly along the Coast around Tomales Bay and in the northeastern part of the county, is devoted to agriculture. The valleys and many of the foot hill sections of Sonoma County are also agricultural territory. The agricultural resources not only greatly exceed all the other resources in value of annual output, but are of vastly greater social importance. The other two main divisions are those sections which are chiefly important for their scenic or resorting advantages and that large section of Sonoma County which is in timber. In a limited area some valuable mineral products are obtained. The manufacturing interests are increasing in importance, being chiefly confined to Santa Rosa and Petaluma, towns which are predominatingly agricultural in character.

The question of transportation is very favorably solved. There is direct ferry connection with San Francisco for passengers or freight or both from Sausalito and Tiburon and a ferry connection between San Quentin and Richmond. Petaluma has direct water connections with the city via the Petaluma River, a federal waterway, and the San Pablo Bay. This is the route of a vast amount of freight traffic from Sonoma County which is handled at a very low rate. There are a number of points of call along the Coast for

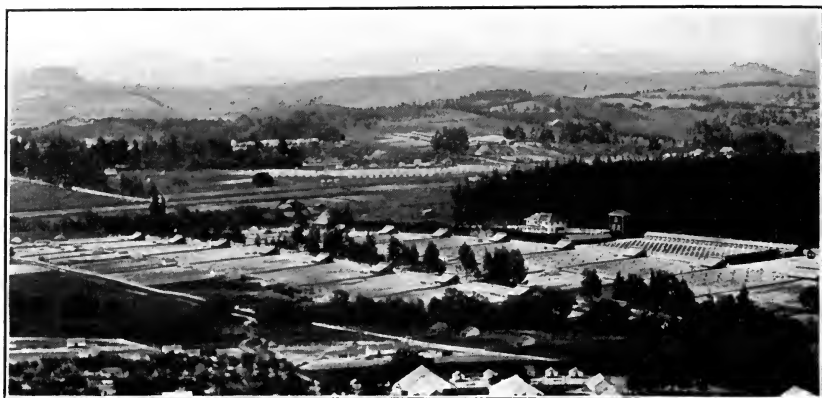
ocean going vessels of small tonnage. The main line of the Northwestern Pacific Railroad runs through the entire length of both counties with its southern terminus at Sausalito. Various branch lines of this road serve most parts of the territory. The Southern Pacific has a line from Santa Rosa, running generally southeast with main line connections. The Petaluma and Santa Rosa Railway Company operates thirty-six miles of electric trolley with tide water connections at Petaluma. In addition to these rail facilities there are a number of important automobile stage lines. Both counties are in the way of acquiring a very adequate system of public roads.

Climate is a matter of economic as well as social concern. "Equable" is the word locally used to describe it. The annual rainfall, taken with the summer fogs, makes farming possible without irrigation. The average annual precipitation is about 38 inches for Marin County and 30 inches for Sonoma County. Very complete compilations of statistics are available to prove that the climate is enjoyable and delightful above any other.

Agriculture in Marin County.

Its agriculture is by no means Marin County's chief claim to fame. The county is a small one, as western counties go, containing only 529 square miles, or approximately 340,000 acres. Although 78% of this area is nominally included in the farms, only 27% of the total land area is actually in improved farm acreage. The total number of farms is 498, representing an investment of about \$12,500,000, or an average of about \$25,000 per farm. Although over one-half of these farms contain less than 100 acres each, many are very large, the average for the county being 529 acres, with an average improved acreage of one hundred and eighty-seven.

The farming is largely in the hands of those of foreign birth or extraction. There are 138 native born farmers as against 360 foreign born, but of the native born a considerable proportion are of foreign parentage. 39.4% of the farms are operated by their owners, 58.4% by tenants, and 2.2% by managers. The farms operated by their owners average smaller than those which are operated by tenants, owners operating in all only 28% of the total farm area, with the same per cent of the total valuation. The proportion of native born farmers is higher among those who operate their own farms than among the tenants, the proportions being respectively 36% and 21%. Of the whole number of foreign born farmers 35% own their own farms. In part these figures indicate the ambition of most of the foreign born farmers to acquire land.



IN THE KINGDOM OF THE WHITE HEN

A fair proportion of them succeed in doing this in the first generation, and a somewhat larger proportion in the second generation. In part the percentages above are due to the fact that in certain sections the number of small farms devoted to fruit and poultry is considerably increasing and that these are very largely in the hands of the native born. On both accounts the percentage of operating owners is slightly increasing. A good deal of land is held in large estates which are very slowly being broken up. Their ultimate dissolution, the time of which cannot be predicted, will doubtless result in a great increase in the proportion of operating owners.

The most important branch of farming is dairy farming, which chiefly takes the form of cream, butter or cheese production. The annual value of the dairy products reaches an aggregate of more than a million and a quarter dollars. Poultry farming is claiming increased attention in some sections. There is very little general farming. The general average of the dairy stock is of rather low quality, the agricultural methods are in the main not modern and much of the soil, naturally rather rich, is being depleted. There is no strong probability that Marin County will ever be of much greater importance agriculturally than at present, although certain parts of it doubtless will make considerable progress in this direction. The market is San Francisco. The transportation facilities are in the main adequate, the number of farms without ready access to shipping points being relatively small.

Agriculture in Sonoma County.

This is quite a different story, since Sonoma County differs from

Marin County in that it is primarily an agricultural county. It is a very much larger county, having an area of 1,577 square miles, or approximately one million acres, which makes it about the size of the State of Rhode Island. Approximately three-fourths of this total area is included in the farms, approximately one-fourth, or 250,000 acres, being improved agricultural land. The total number of farms is 4,772. They do not average large, more than one-half having less than fifty acres, while a fifth of the whole number have less than ten acres each. The average total acreage per farm throughout the county is 156, while the average improved acreage is fifty-two. The total investment is over \$55,000,000, the average being over \$11,500 per farm. It will be noticed that the farm averages, both as to acreage and investment, are very much lower in Sonoma County than in Marin County, due to the fact that much more intensive farming is practised in Sonoma County, where the total volume of the business is many fold larger.

In distinction from Marin County, where only 27% of the farmers were native born and many of these of foreign parentage, in Sonoma County 57% of the farmers are native born, a large proportion of these being also of native parentage. It is to be noticed also that the operating owners here are 79% of the total number of farmers, as compared with 39.4% in Marin County, and the tenants only 18.6%, as compared with 58.4%. Like Marin County, however, the rented farms here average larger both in acreage and investment than those operated by the owners, largely due to the type of farming practised by the tenants, who are most numerous in the dairy sections and are least in evidence in the poultry sections where the most intensive farming is practised.

Farming in Sonoma County is highly differentiated and for the most part highly specialized. Historically it has gone through the same stages as many other sections of California, having seen the day when its valleys were a vast cattle range and the later day when wheat was king. Now, however, the beef cattle are driven back to foot hill ranges and wheat has almost disappeared.

It is doubtful if there is another county in the United States where the poultry products are the most important and the most valuable single group of agricultural products. This is Sonoma County's unique distinction. The poultry industry centers around Petaluma. It is also quite extensively developed in the neighborhood of Sebastopol and Santa Rosa. Petaluma is the most important initial shipping point for poultry products in the world. In 1913, the last year for which exact figures are at hand, there was shipped



A VINEYARD OF THE ITALIAN-SWISS COLONY AT ASTI.

from Petaluma a total of 10,464,744 dozen eggs and 88,824 dozen poultry. The rest of the county shipped approximately 2,500,000 dozen eggs and 22,000 dozen poultry. Transportation facilities, climate and all other conditions are exceedingly favorable to this specialization.

The White Hen is by no means Sonoma County's only visible support. It is not possible here to do more than mention the prevailing forms of agriculture practised, and the sections where they are important. The dairy business centering in the Coast region is about the same in volume and has much the same characteristics as the dairy business in Marin County. Tree fruits are somewhat more important. The prune leads with the apple a close second. The former has its headquarters in the vicinity of Healdsburg; the latter in the Gold Ridge section around Sebastopol. It is worthy of note that this section is the home of the Gravenstein, the earliest and best of summer apples. There are also some peaches, cherries, olives, citrus and other tree fruits in various parts of the county. Walnuts are potentially an important crop, with a steadily increasing acreage. Small fruits are grown very successfully and profitably, this industry also centering in the Gold Ridge section.

Viticulture has been and still is a very important branch of the county's agriculture, although its relative importance is diminishing. Practically all of the grapes grown are wine grapes. The most important sections are the Sonoma Valley and the uniquely interesting Italian-Swiss Colony north of Healdsburg on the Russian River. There are many large wineries in the county and the product is said to be of more than average excellence. There has been, however, in the last few years increasing difficulty in selling the wine and in consequence many small vineyardists are transferring their attention to other branches of agriculture. Hop grow-

ing is another very large source of income to the county. The especial demands of this crop make only a limited area available, but where conditions are favorable it has proven a very profitable industry. Sonoma County hops are of the highest quality and generally command the very top of the market price. Santa Rosa is the hop center of the county. From the above outline it will be noticed that each section of the county is chiefly characterized by one type of farming. In the local vernacular, Petaluma means chickens, Sebastopol Gravenstein apples, Healdsburg prunes, Santa Rosa hops, Sonoma City wine grapes, Cloverdale citrus fruits, the Coast dairy cows.

In general, market conditions are highly favorable as regards the poultry industry, increasingly unfavorable as regards the vineyard products and about average for the other classes of products. Transportation facilities are more than usually ample at very reasonable carriage rates. Co-operation in marketing is not nearly so developed here as in some sections of Southern and Central California, but it has made a good start in the apple and berry business of the Gold Ridge section. The Sebastopol Berry Growers, Incorporated, and the Sebastopol Apple Growers' Union are two thriving organizations which have done much in the last few years to stabilize the markets for their respective products and to increase the margin of profit in their production.



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